

to bleed nearly to death financially. New estimates this year show that the bleeding has turned into a hemorrhage.

In West Virginia, the Appalachian Regional Hospital at Man, West Virginia in Logan County has been closed since June 30, 2000. Coupled with losses of upwards of \$5 million over the past several years, most of which can be attributed to the loss of Medicare reimbursement to hospitals taken away by the BBA97, the hospital could no longer continue to serve the citizens of Logan County, and citizens from surrounding counties as well.

But also In West Virginia, the Arch Coal Company and the United Mine Workers Union (UMWA) have chipped in with funding to help reopen the Man ARH hospital, lifting the community over its fund-raising goal.

In 1956, the Man Hospital was one in a chain of hospitals built by the United Mine Workers Health and Retirement funds. These hospitals were built in southern West Virginia, southwestern Virginia, and Eastern Kentucky where other health care was not available to coal miners. While the Logan County economy has diversified to also include business men, women and their families, it is still an access hospital for coal miners, their surviving wives and children.

Losing the hospital would affect the delivery of health care to thousands of people, and much of that care goes to those without any health insurance, known as uncompensated care, and a majority of the users of the hospital are senior citizens on Medicare. As noted above, it was the loss of the Medicare reimbursements that became the final blow that caused the Man ARH Hospital to close its doors.

Today I commend the United Mine Workers of West Virginia, and the officials of Arch Coal Company, for caring enough about the people served by the Man ARH Hospital to contribute to its reopening and its future service to the people of Logan County and beyond.

But more, Mr. Speaker, in these times of fiscal hemorrhaging by hospitals in the coalfields of West Virginia and the nation, I pay tribute to labor and management coming together to help people help themselves, without a single negotiating session at the bargaining table.

In West Virginia, the United Mine Workers Union and the Arch Coal Company just stepped up to the plate and got the job done.

VERMONT STUDENT CONGRESSIONAL TOWN MEETING

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work done by participants in my Student Congressional Town Meeting held this summer. These participants were part of a group of high school students from around Vermont who testified about the concerns they have as teenagers, and about what they would like to see the government do regarding these concerns.

I submit these statements for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as I believe that the views of these young persons will benefit my colleagues.

MIKE FLOWER AND BRETT MICHAUD

REGARDING STUDENT NIGHTLIFE—MAY 26, 2000

MIKE FLOWER: I am Mike Flower from Youth Build, and it is an organization that we do construction and do school every other week. And basically my subject is how there isn't a lot of things for youth to do at nighttime. And I just think that there should be a club for just youth or something every night that they can do instead of drugs. So that is my thought.

BRETT MICHAUD: I basically have the same idea as him because, I mean, without any clubs what do students resort to? They resort to gangs and drugs, and that is not what people want and that is not what people want to see in the youth of Burlington. They want to see people active in their community, and sometimes the activities are just not there for the students and they just have no other place to resort to.

HILLARY KNAPP, SHAWN KEANE, SUE MARTIN,
LAURA DRUMMOND AND JOEL FELION

REGARDING OTTER TEEN NETWORK—MAY 26, 2000

HILLARY KNAPP: I would first like to thank you for inviting us and giving us the opportunity to tell about some of the things that we have been doing at Otter Valley Union High School through our teen network organization, Otter Teen Network.

The issue that we would like to present to you is continued support, encouragement and funding for organizations such as Otter Teen Network that give teens an opportunity to be leaders, putting continued emphasis on school funding, opportunities for grants that support prevention programs and funding for groups such as Green Mountain Prevention Projects are very important. We feel that we as teens are the best support and the best role models for each other and that we have more of a direct influence on each other, but those of us who want to become leaders need a clean and drug-free school and even the right tools. In addition to supporting prevention, we would also like to encourage research in intervention programs that support teens in our daily lives.

SHAWN KEANE: Otter Teen Network is an idea that came from two students two years ago. Otter Teen Network is student-initiated, student-run and student-organized that promotes teens working together to create a positive school, community and safe school environment while promoting being drug-free. Otter Teen Network is a great example of teens being given the opportunity to express their opinions, share ideas and improving their school environment and being encouraged to make a difference. We have the opportunity to pull together many resources and merge them into the program making it quite a team effort. Safe and Drug-free Schools has funded our advisor's position. It has been the advisor's goal to work within the school soliciting support from administration, faculty and staff. With the creation of OTN, Otter Valley has created an umbrella organization to take advantage of a number of outside resources, such as Green Mountain Prevention Projects, which are stated in there, GMR projects, leadership projects and teen institutes. We are very close to DTLSP. We even have someone on the advisory council. We participate in the Governor's Leadership Conference and also VCAT. Otter Teen Network has also worked with the office of Alcohol and Drug Abuse on presentations. We have also developed them through the goal of working through grant writing and awards to further our projects.

In addition to Safe and Drug-free School mini-grants we have also been given an award. We have also awarded ODAT community grants.

Another area of support that we have tapped into is our outside community organization called Neighborhood Connections. This is a team—it is this teamwork and cooperation that has made us stronger and helped us to such positive influence in such a short time.

LAURA DRUMMOND: Otter Valley Union High School has approximately 770 middle school and high school students. This type of diverse program reaches everyone, Otter Teen Network meetings are held weekly. Once a month we try to have planning sessions where we talk about theme and how to get it across to the school. Often we do informal bulletin boards and school art displays. In many of our topics we focus on prevention in school and community or showing how we are all connected.

JOEL FELION: We have teen leaders which initiate and head a project. There are team members who do network on the project and get it ready, and there are participants who are in school who have not worked on the project but received direct benefit and then there are recipients who are on the outskirts, they are not picking up anything directly but they still benefit from our program and our influence.

HILLARY KNAPP: We would like to present to you this binder showing some of the things that we have done, and we would like to thank you for having us. And the next presentation is about our Power of Choice Day which was held on May 3rd.

Chris Bullard, Becki Kenyon, Jenn Bearor,
Angel Boise and Hillary Knapp

REGARDING POWER OF CHOICE—MAY 26, 2000

CHRIS BULLARD: Hi. My name is Chris Bullard and I am here to go over the concept of the Power of Choice Day. Through attending many conferences with GMPP and GLSP we were always greatly influenced on what we had saw or what we had done, so we decided it would be good for the entire school to have something like that. We began brainstorming ideas last year. As we began brainstorming, the ideas just kept flowing. In February of this year we finally had enough on paper to present it to our administration. It was a go for May 3rd. The Power of Choice was named an all day, schoolwide conference offering teens at Otter Valley Union High School an opportunity to learn, interact and discuss problems and issues that teens face 3 today. And now I am going to turn over to these two.

BECKI KENYON: Hi. I am Becki. Here you have a Power of Choice flyer or pamphlet you can use and it would help. Could you please take it out just to look at it? It should be in one of the pockets.

JENN BEAROR: The meaning of this day was to give awareness to our peers about alcohol and drugs and peer pressure and to let them make their own decisions. We have a group of us called the SOS Players which emphasized on all types of issues that teens face today. We also had the pleasure to have a couple of peers from Mountain View come as well as many celebrities, like the Middlebury Men's and Women's Hockey Team, and all of this was possible by the funding of grants from the Governor's Highway Safety Program, New Direction, OBCC, Refuse to Abuse, and many more.

BECKI KENYON: In the back of the program we had different workshops that our students went to throughout the day, and some of those workshops are Addiction and Intervention, Dealing with Tragedy, Health, Home and Phobia Resolves, Parties, Respecting Yourself, Does Your Body Meet Your Image, Healthy Habits. And the students gave different—well, it had their names on them for drawings throughout the day so we

kind of rewarded them for coming and participating with us. And then in our school we have three different lunches which we use to invite different groups and which we go there.

We have also been working with several groups throughout the whole process. Some of these are Fine Family Resources, Vermont Liquor Control, OBCC, Trapp Coalition, Department of Health, VTLS, GMPP, and all these groups working together helped us to meet the Vermont standards adopted by the state for all students in the state.

And we would like to turn it over to Angel. ANGEL BOISE: As Becki Kenyon already said, my name is Angel Boise. I would just like to say we have received positive and negative comments about this day. We had several students absent that day because they thought they would be ineffective. The day had turned out to have a big impact on the faculty, students and community members. The students that missed Power of Choice realized that they had missed out on a great day. Some of the positive comments were that it was a wonderful day, it had a big impact and it was unbelievable. Thank you for all your time.

HILLARY KNAPP: It has been a privilege to be here today. As a small token of our appreciation, we would like to present you with our Otter Valley mascot, the otter, and it is from us at Otter Teen Network and Otter Valley Union High School.

LITERACY INVOLVES FAMILIES TOGETHER ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman GOODLING for allowing me the opportunity to support this bill.

We are here today to consider H.R. 3222, the Literacy Involves Families Together Act. This bill ensures that family literacy programs like Even Start will continue to help many families break the cycle of literacy that often leads to poverty, unemployment, and dependency on federal support programs.

This country has come a long way since we were all children.

Although this nation has always placed an emphasis on education, we now live in an age when just having a high school education is not enough to prepare our children for the professional world. Global competition, the inter-

net, and widespread use of technology all indicate that the economy of the 21st century will create new challenges for employers and workers. In order to attain that high quality of life we all strive for, the generations after us will need to meet higher educational standards.

But, in the course of attempting to ensure access to a college education for all who can benefit from it, we cannot forget about those less fortunate—the parents and children who, for whatever reason, have not yet mastered the basic yet essential skills of reading and writing.

H.R. 3222 would improve the quality of services provided under Even Start and other family literacy programs: By providing training and technical assistance to local providers, by requiring that instructional programs are based on scientific research on reading, by funding research on the teaching of reading to adults in family literacy and other adult education programs, and by establishing qualifications for instructional staff in Even Start programs—whose salaries are paid almost entirely with Even Start dollars.

In addition, I would also like to take a moment to express a few words for my colleague and dear friend BILL GOODLING.

The Education and the Workforce Committee was blessed the day BILL was elected to Congress. Drawing on his experiences as a coach, a high school principal, and a Superintendent of schools, BILL has always approached the issue of education with the interests of America's children at heart. H.R. 3222 is a monument and a fitting tribute to a man of honor, integrity, courage, and vision. As a member of the majority and minority, BILL has maintained his loyalty to our children, often in the face of fervid opposition by many who put their own special interests ahead of the well being of America's kids.

It has been my pleasure and honor to have known Mr. BILL GOODLING for 22 years, and I will miss him—as much as he misses his horses when he's in Washington—when he retires at the end of this session.

Again, I thank Chairman GOODLING for this opportunity to support H.R. 3222, and more importantly, for his participation and leadership as a Member of Congress, and as Chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Tuesday, September 12, 2000, I was testifying before the Federal Electricity Regulatory Commission, which held a hearing in San Diego, CA, regarding our electricity rate crisis. Had I been able to be present for Rollcalls, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 460—"yea", Rollcall No. 461—"yea", Rollcall No. 462—"yea", Rollcall No. 463—"yea", Rollcall No. 464—"yea".

IN RECOGNITION OF STEPFAMILY DAY IN MICHIGAN AND THE IM- PORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE STEPFAMILY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2000

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Stepfamily Day, which is promoted by the Stepfamily Association of America (SAA) as a day to recognize and celebrate the importance of stepfamilies throughout our nation. On the 16th of September, stepfamilies will be coming together in Michigan and many other states to commemorate their special bonds.

Due to the efforts of Michigan's Christy Borgeld, Stepfamily Day founder and board member of the SAA, Stepfamily Day picnics will be held in Michigan and throughout the nation. Mr. Speaker, this event is but one example of the strides this organization has made in its dedication to the acceptance, support and success of stepfamily living. As it was so aptly put by Christy and the SAA:

Our nation has been blessed by thousands of loving stepparents and stepchildren who are daily reminders of the joys, trials and triumphs of the family experience and of the boundless love contained in the bond between parents and children.

It is my pleasure to pay tribute to the SAA for its commitment and hard work on behalf of American families, and to wish families in Michigan and nationwide a happy and successful Stepfamily Day.